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Message Text

SECRET

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42
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 SS-14 PM-03 SP-01 L-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10 SY-02 PRS-01

MC-02 /060 W
---------- 094908
R 191215Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 292
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T TEHRAN 1604

LIMDIS

BEIRUT ALSO PASS USINT BAGHDAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PORS, PINS, MASS, UK, BA, IR, IZ, JO, KU, JU, QA, SA,
TC, EG, LE, PK, SU, YE
SUBJ: U.K. AND OTHER ADVISORY ROLES IN DEFENSE/SECURITY FIELD
IN PERSIAN GULF STATES

REF: STATE 029563

1. IRAN IS BOTH DONOR AND RECIPIENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE.
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IN OMAN, IRAN CURRENTLY HAS ABOUT 2,000 TROOPS WITH SUPPORT-

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ING EQUIPMENT ENGAGED IN ASSISTING THE SAF'S WAR IN
DHOFAR. CONTRARY TO RECENT REPORTS, WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT F-5 AIR-
CRAFT WILL NOT BE DEPLOYED WITH IRANIAN FORCES. IRANIANS HAVE
ACKNOWLEDGED BRITISH OVERALL LEADERSHIP IN THE CAMPAIGN, BUT INSIST
ON CONDUCTING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS. IT IS OUR
IMPRESSION THAT THE GOI IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT U.K.
PRESENCE IN OMAN, SUSPECTING THAT THE BRITISH ARE PROLONG-
ING THE WAR FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. HOWEVER, IRANIANS
SEEM RECONCILED THAT BRITS WILL BE THE DOMINANT INFLUENCE
IN OMAN FOR SOME TIME TO COME. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW,
IRANIAN/OMANI COOPERATION SERVES STRONG MUTUAL INTERESTS
AND, IF MAINTAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL AS IN THE PAST,
SHOULD NOT COMPLICATE IRANIAN/ARAB RELATIONS.

2. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER IRANIAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO
OTHER GULF STATES. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT GOI WOULD BE
WILLING TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE IF REQUESTED, BUT
THERE SEEMS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT NEIGHBORING ARABS WILL
INVITE IRANIAN ADVISORS ACROSS THE GULF.

3. APART FROM OUR OWN ARMISH/MAAG PROGRAM, BRITS HAVE
ONLY SIGNIFICANT ADVISORY ROLE WITH IRANIAN MILITARY FORCES.
PRIMARILY, U.K. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TECHNICAIANS ARE HERE
TO SUPPORT IRANIAN HARDWARE PURCHASES, E.G., CHIEFTAN
TANKS AND RAPIER MISSILES. BRITS ALSO HAVE SMALL DETACH-
MENT TRAINING RELATIVELY NEW IRANIAN MARINE BATTALION. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT GOI IS NEGOTIATING WITH BRITISH FOR A TANK
AND ORDNANCE FACILITY AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, THAT PROJECT
WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE NUMBER OF BRITISH TECHNICIANS
IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE FIELD IN IRAN. AS BRITISH AND
OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES SELL HARDWARE TO IRANIAN ARMED
FORCES WE MAY EXPECT THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE INCREASED
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING SUPPORT.

4. WE ARE PLANNING A SUBSEQUENT REPORT ON THIRD COUNTRY
SALES AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE IRANIAN MILITARY.
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